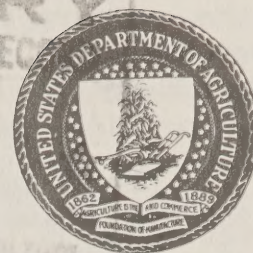
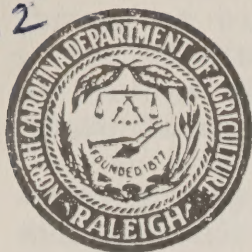


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NORTH CAROLINA



No. 225

RALEIGH, N. C.

JANUARY 25, 1957

LARGER FARM STOCKS OF WHEAT, OATS AND SOYBEANS -- CORN ABOUT UNCHANGED

Stocks of wheat on N. C. farms are estimated to be 2,769,000 bushels as of January 1, 1957. The current estimate is 788,000 bushels more than the 1,981,000 bushels on farms a year earlier and is 644,000 bushels above the 1946-55 average.

Record production of Oats in 1956 has resulted in a record January 1 holdings of 8,069,000 bushels. The current estimate is 52 percent more than the 5,313,000 bushels on farms a year earlier and is a little over twice the 10-year average.

Soybean production in 1956 was by far

the largest crop ever produced in the state and on-farm stocks were estimated at 2,325,000 bushels. This compares with 1,520,000 bushels on farms January 1, 1956 and exceeds the average by 1,055,000 bushels.

Stocks of corn on farms totaled 47,434,000 bushels and about equals the 47,725,000 bushels on January 1, 1956. The current carry-over is 15 percent above the 1946-55 average.

Stocks of hay on North Carolina farms as of January 1 are estimated at 731,000

(Continued on Page 2)

N. C. 1957 WHEAT ACREAGE DOWN

The average seeded to wheat for the 1957 crop in North Carolina is estimated at 361,000, down 7 percent from the acreage seeded for 1956.

Seeding conditions during the Fall of 1956 were mixed from favorable to unfavorable. About one-third of the crop was seeded prior to October 13 under generally favorable conditions. Unfavorable seeding conditions prevailed during the latter half of October and much of the wheat acreage was not seeded until November.

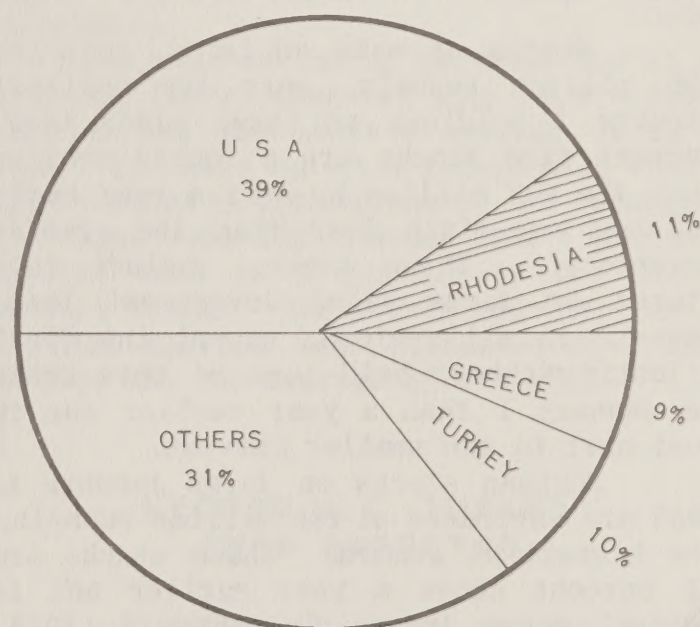
Based upon the condition as of December 1, the production for 1957 is estimated at 7,581,000 bushels which is 18 percent below the 9,231,000 bushels produced last year.

UNITED STATES

Winter wheat seedings for 1957 were sharply reduced to nearly one-fifth less than the year before and to almost a third below average. Growers have weighed the drought threat in leading wheat states as well as the acreage reduction inducements of the Soil Bank plan. Much wheat in the Great Plains has made only a fair start

(Continued on Page 2)

FREE WORLD TOBACCO EXPORTS 1955



RHODESIA'S STAKE IN TOBACCO

Rhodesia has become an important supplier in international trade and a formidable competitor to other flue-cured and fire-cured producing countries. Rhodesian exports reached 132 million pounds (export weight) in 1954, or more than 10

(Continued on Page 2)

LARGER FARM STOCKS *(Continued)*

tons. Present hay stocks are about 13 percent below January 1, 1955 and 11 percent below the 10-year 1946-55 average.

UNITED STATES

Stocks of corn on farms January 1, 1957 are estimated at 2,331 million bushels - second only to the record January 1 stocks of 2,480 million bushels in 1949. Current farm stocks are 5 percent above the 2,215 million bushels a year ago and 13 percent above average. In general, farm stocks on January 1 are above a year earlier in areas where 1956 production exceeded the previous year and below a year earlier where 1956 production declined.

United States on farm stocks of wheat are the lowest since 1941. The estimated 293 million bushels of wheat on farms January 1, 1957 is 8 percent below a year earlier and 21 percent less than the average January 1 stocks of 368 million bushels. The January 1 stocks are equivalent to 29.4 percent of the 1956 production, compared with 34.1 percent held a year earlier and the average of 32.2 percent. About one-fourth of the total wheat on farms January 1 was wheat from the 1956 and earlier crops under Government loan, about the same percentage as the previous year.

Stocks of oats on farms, totaling 696 million bushels, were the smallest January 1 holdings on farms since 1940. Current farm stocks are a fourth smaller than the 942 million bushels a year earlier and one-sixth less than the average inventory. These stocks include oats stored on farms under Government loan. Farmers in all regions, except the South Atlantic States, held less of this grain on January 1 than a year earlier due in most part to the smaller harvest.

Soybean stocks on farms January 1, 1957 are estimated at 169 million bushels, the highest of record. These stocks are 45 percent above a year earlier and 14 percent above those of January 1, 1955, the previous high. The large farm stocks result from the record 1956 production and from farmers holding a higher than usual percentage of the crop on farms.

FEED GRAINS: Exports are likely to be down 20 percent to 25 percent from last year. Large areas of damaged wheat acreage in Europe were reseeded to feed grains. Considerable low grade wheat is available abroad for feeding.

N. C. WHEAT *(Continued)*

and needs much more moisture to fortify plants and firm soils against cutting winds which although largely avoided so far can be expected as a normal early-season hazard.

A 1957 winter wheat crop of 625 million bushels is indicated, based on conditions as of December 1 and other factors. A crop of this size would be 15 percent less than the 1956 crop and 28 percent less than average.

RHODESIA *(Continued)*

percent of total Free World exports of all tobacco. This was four times the average exports of 1935-39. Even more significant is the Rhodesian share of the all-important flue-cured export market - 16 percent.

PRODUCTION

Total production of leaf tobacco in the Federation during 1956 reached a record 200 million pounds. Production of flue-cured, the most important type, was approximately 166 million pounds, up 26 percent from 1955. This leaf is grown on soils ranging from sandy loam to heavy clay. Southern Rhodesia furnished 91 percent, mostly from the Salisbury area. Northern Rhodesia grew 7 percent in the western area along the Livingstone-Lusaka railroad and in the eastern area around Ft. Jameson. Nyasaland grew 2 percent.

The acreage of Southern Rhodesian flue-cured tobacco harvested in 1956 was 20 percent above that of 1955, and the average yield rose to 760 pounds an acre - an alltime high. This yield was 7 percent above that of 1955 and about 20 percent above the average of 1947-51, but was still only one-half the 1,497 pound average yield in the United States for 1955.

Fire-cured production in the Federation reached approximately 27 million pounds in 1956. Nyasaland furnished nearly all of this type; Southern Rhodesia produced only 300,000 pounds.

Oriental leaf production reached 200,000 pounds. There is increased interest in this type to be grown for the United States market.

COST OF PRODUCTION

Production costs per acre of flue-cured leaf have been reported by farmers as ranging from \$180 to \$300 per acre. A cost of \$225 was typical. This was based on an average yield of 600 pounds of leaf per acre. This is an equivalent of about 37.5 U. S. cents per pound. The native labor costs involved represent much work on other farm activities, as the native is kept year-round. Costs are rising but increasing yields will tend to somewhat offset these.

Turkish leaf is grown under contract and delivered on the string.

BUYER

Domestic manufacturers produce two qualities of cigarettes, the native brand very low priced. Over 90 percent of the flue-cured leaf of Rhodesia is purchased for export. After redrying and repacking this leaf is shipped by rail to a seaport in Mozambique or South Africa. The United Kingdom is the destination of two-thirds of the total. Australia, the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, and the Belgian Congo account for most of the rest.

OUTLOOK

The outlook for increased production of flue-cured leaf tobacco in Rhodesia is subject to many qualifying conditions. Physically, there is much room for expansion since there is much unused land. However, most of the land in the present area of flue-cured tobacco production is in very large farms. Most of these farms are already growing tobacco in as large an acreage as can be efficiently cultivated. There are no land taxes. Therefore, there is no compulsion for the owners to break up these large farms. Most new growers are compelled to go into outlying areas for land. As production begins to exceed world demand and prices drop accordingly, many of these new farmers will not be able to produce at a profit. The recent drop in auction prices paid in Rhodesia for the 1956 harvest will probably slow the expansion of tobacco acreage.

USDA - Foreign Agriculture Report No. 94

FRUIT: Consumer demand is expected to continue strong this winter. Some increase in output of frozen orange concentrate is expected this season.

EGG PRODUCTION FOR DECEMBER

Highest of Record

Based on reports from producers the December egg production is estimated at 143 million, a new high for the month and is 20 million above the 1955 previous record high production. The December 1956 production represents an increase of about 11 million eggs from November. Layers on hand numbered 9,428,000 compared with 9,014,000 a year earlier. The average rate of lay per 100 layers amounted to 1,513 eggs compared with 1,364 during December 1955. Total eggs produced for the calendar year 1956 amounts to 1,672 million compared with 1,469 million for the like period in 1955.

In the Nation, farm flocks laid 5,241 million eggs in December, 1956. This was a record high production for the month. Egg production was above December 1955 in all regions of the country except the West where it was 1 percent below a year earlier. Increases from a year earlier were 11 percent in the South Central, 8 percent in the South Atlantic, 6 percent in the East and West North Central and 4 percent in the North Atlantic States. During 1956, 60,837 million eggs were produced, a record high number. This is 2 percent above 1955 and 7 percent above the 1945-54 average.

The rate of lay in December was 15.6 eggs per layer, compared with 14.9 a year earlier and the 10-year average of 12.0 eggs. The rate was at a record high level for December in all regions of the country. Increases from 1955 ranged from 1 percent in the West to 9 percent in the South Central States. The yearly rate per layer on hand was 196 eggs, compared with 192 in 1955 and the average of 170 eggs.

RECORD N. C. TURKEY CROP EXPECTED

North Carolina turkey growers intend to produce 19 percent more turkeys in 1957 than were raised in 1956. If grower intentions as of January 1 are carried out, the number of turkeys raised will amount to 1,545,000 as compared to 1,295,000 produced last year. Of the total expected raised, 1,491,000 would be heavy breeds

(Continued on Page 4)

N. C. TURKEY (Continued)

and 54,000 would be light breeds. All of the expected increase is in the heavy breeds while light breeds indicated no change from the 1956 production.

UNITED STATES

Turkey growers intend to produce 10 percent more turkeys in 1957 than last year. If growers carry out their intentions, the number of turkeys raised will be about 84 million, compared with 76 million in 1956. All regions of the country, except the North Atlantic, plan increases ranging from 6 percent in the West to 15 percent in the West North Central States. Growers in the North Atlantic States expect to equal last year's production.

Heavy breed growers intend to raise 71,157,000 turkeys this year -- 13 percent more than last year. All parts of the country plan increases in heavy breed birds ranging from 1 percent in the North Atlantic to 19 percent in the West North Central States. Growers plan to increase heavy white breeds 10 percent above last year and bronze and other heavy breeds 15 percent. In 1956 heavy white breeds accounted for about a fourth of all heavies raised.

Compared with 1956, farmers plan to increase the number of heavy whites raised 17 percent in the West North Central, 16 percent in the East North Central and 11 percent in the South Central and to decrease numbers 8 percent in the West, 3 percent in the North Atlantic and 1 percent in the South Atlantic States.

Bronze and other heavy breeds will be above last year in all regions of the country if farmers' plans are carried out. Reported increases from last year are 22 percent in the South Atlantic, 19 percent in the West North Central, 15 percent in the South Central, 13 percent in the East North Central, 10 percent in the West and 6 percent in the North Atlantic States.

Light breed growers expect to produce 13,134,000 turkeys in 1957 -- a decrease of 3 percent. All regions of the country plan fewer light breed turkeys except the important South Atlantic region where production is expected to be up 10 percent. Decreases from last year by areas are 27 percent in the West, 19 percent in the East North Central, 9 percent in the West North Central, 4 percent in the North Atlantic and 1 percent in the South Central States.

PROSPECTIVE 1957 LATE SPRING POTATO ACREAGE UP 7 PERCENT

According to reports from growers and other key individuals the late spring potato acreage is expected to be 25,000 acres. If growers follow through on their current intentions, the 1957 planted acreage will be 7 percent more than in 1956 but 8 percent less than the 1949-55 average crop of 27,200 acres.

UNITED STATES

The 1957 production of winter potatoes is forecast at 7,570,000 hundredweight, 44 percent above the 1956 production of 5,260,000 hundredweight and more than double the 1949-55 average of 3,554,000 hundredweight. The forecast on December 1 was 7,445,000 hundredweight.

In Florida, with the exception of the Everglades area, the winter acreage is making good progress. In the Everglades, where the crop was severely damaged by freezes in late November, harvest is underway and yields have been low. In the Fort Myers-Immokalee area, prospects appear good and harvest is expected to start the second week of January around Fort Myers and a little later around Immokalee. In Dade County, the crop has made good progress. Harvest in the area usually starts in early February. In California, most of the acreage was ready for harvest in December and some harvest occurred. However, digging was mostly confined to the poorer yielding fields. Acreage harvested to January 1 this year is less than 20 percent of the total -- much less than a year ago.

Growers of late spring potatoes reported intentions to plant 170,800 acres in 1957, 3 percent above the acreage planted in 1956 but 9 percent below 1955. Growers in California, who usually produce about one-third of the late spring acreage, reported intentions at 63,000 acres, no change from the 1956 acreage. A slight increase over last year is indicated in Kern County while in Riverside and San Bernadino Counties smaller acreages were reported. In North Carolina, Alabama, Louisiana and Arizona, intentions are above the 1956 planted acreage. Small declines are indicated for Georgia and Oklahoma while no change was reported for South Carolina, Mississippi, Arkansas and Texas.

IRISH POTATOES PLANTED AND INTENDED PLANTINGS FOR 1957 WITH COMPARISONS

SEASONAL GROUP AND STATE	ACREAGE			YIELD PER HARVESTED ACRE			PRODUCTION		
	HARVESTED		FOR HARVEST 1957	AVERAGE 1949-55	1956	INDI- CATED 1957	AVERAGE 1949-55	1956	INDI- CATED 1957
	AVERAGE 1949-55	1956							
	<u>1,000 Acres</u>	<u>1,000 Acres</u>	<u>1,000 Acres</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>1,000 Cwt.</u>	<u>1,000 Cwt.</u>	<u>1,000 Cwt.</u>
<u>WINTER:</u>									
FLORIDA.....	11.0	16.0	25.0	161	173	160	1,787	2,768	4,000
CALIFORNIA.....	11.6	17.8	21.0	155	140	170	1,768	2,492	3,570
TOTAL WINTER.....	22.6	33.8	46.0	156.6	155.6	164.6	3,554	5,260	7,570

SEASONAL GROUP AND STATE	ACREAGE			YIELD PER PLANTED ACRE			PRODUCTION		
	PLANTED		INDI- CATED 1957	AVERAGE 1949-55	1956	INDI- CATED 1957	AVERAGE 1949-55	1956	INDI- CATED 1957
	AVERAGE 1949-55	1956							
	<u>1,000 Acres</u>	<u>1,000 Acres</u>	<u>1,000 Acres</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>1,000 Cwt.</u>	<u>1,000 Cwt.</u>	<u>1,000 Cwt.</u>
<u>EARLY SPRING:</u>									
FLA. - HASTINGS.	15.2	21.0	23.0	161	168	APR. 10	2,470	3,528	APR. 10
- OTHER....	4.4	5.2	5.0	102	90	"	455	470	"
TEXAS.....	4.2	.4	.3	42	60	"	184	24	"
TOTAL EARLY SPRING.....	23.9	26.6	28.3	130.1	151.2	"	3,110	4,022	"
<u>LATE SPRING:</u>									
NORTH CAROLINA..	27.2	23.3	25.0	101	100	MAY 10	2,738	2,330	MAY 10
SOUTH CAROLINA..	11.8	8.0	8.0	79	82	"	922	656	"
GEORGIA.....	3.2	2.2	2.0	59	58	"	191	128	"
ALABAMA-BALDWIN AREA.....	20.1	15.4	18.0	89	112	"	1,765	1,725	"
OTHER....	13.0	8.5	8.5	45	50	"	589	425	"
MISSISSIPPI.....	11.4	9.5	9.5	39	39	"	444	370	"
ARKANSAS.....	15.7	9.5	9.5	49	54	"	770	513	"
LOUISIANA.....	12.3	8.3	8.5	38	49	"	467	407	"
OKLAHOMA.....	6.8	5.0	4.7	48	45	"	325	226	"
TEXAS.....	11.8	9.1	9.1	44	45	"	513	410	"
ARIZONA.....	4.7	4.3	5.0	221	250	"	1,045	1,075	"
CALIFORNIA.....	66.1	63.0	63.0	260	255	"	17,084	16,065	"
TOTAL LATE SPRING.....	204.2	166.1	170.8	132.0	146.5	"	26,853	24,330	"

CHICKS HATCHED BY COMMERCIAL HATCHERIES DURING DECEMBER

N. C. commercial hatcheries in North Carolina produced 7,508,000 chicks during December 1956. This was 1.4 percent above the output in December 1955 and 78 percent more than the 5-year 1950-54 average. The number produced during January through December 1956 totaled 109,731,000 compared with 91,748,000 during the same months last year--an increase of 20 percent.

Broiler chick production in December, by commercial hatcheries amounted to 6,977,000 and non-broiler chicks totaled 531,000 head. Broiler chicks produced January through December amounted to 97,105,000 compared with 82,056,000 during the same months last year--an increase of 18 percent.

UNITED STATES

Commercial hatcheries produced 121,961,000 chicks during December 1956. This was 1 percent above the 120,235,000 produced in December 1955 and 35 percent above the 1950-54 average for the month of 90,267,000 chicks. The number produced during 1956 was the largest of record, 2,112,672,000 chicks, compared with 1,853,417,000 in 1955. The previous high production was in 1954 when 1,860,615,000 chicks were produced.

Broiler chick production which accounted for 87 percent of the hatch during December totaled 105,941,000 chicks, compared with 102,730,000 in December 1955--an increase of 3 percent. The number of broiler chicks produced during 1956 totaled 1,423,881,000, compared with 1,204,784,000 in 1955--an increase of 18 percent. Chicks produced in December other than for broiler production totaled 16,020,000 compared with 17,505,000 a year earlier--a decrease of 8 percent. The number of non-broiler chicks produced in 1956 totaled 688,791,000, compared with 648,633,000 in 1955--an increase of 6 percent.

The demand for broiler chicks continues relatively strong. The number of eggs for broilers in incubators on January 1 was 10 percent more than a year earlier. The number of non-broiler eggs in incubators on January 1 was 16 percent smaller than on January 1, 1956.



U. S. POULT PRODUCTION

Heavy breed poult production during December was more than double last year's production. The number produced totaled 2,180,000 compared with 1,029,000 in December 1955--an increase of 112 percent. Of the total produced, 854,000 or 39 percent were of the heavy white breeds. A large January hatch of heavy breed poult is in prospect as the number of heavy breed eggs in incubators on January 1 totaled 4,252,000 compared with 2,660,000 a year earlier--an increase of 60 percent.

Light breed poult production during December 1956 totaled 1,076,000, compared with 913,000 in December 1955--an increase of 18 percent. The number of light breed poult in incubators on January 1 totaled 1,418,000, compared with 1,346,000 a year earlier--an increase of 5 percent.

DECEMBER MILK PRODUCTION UP

Milk production on North Carolina farms during December totaled 136 million pounds. Production for December exceeded that for the comparable period of 1955 by 6 million pounds and the 1945-54 average by 20 million pounds. Milk production per cow in herd on January 1, 1957 averaged 16.9 pounds compared with 15.4 pounds a year earlier and 12.2 pounds for the 10-year average. The percent of milk cows milked on January 1, 1957 was 75.9 compared with 73.1 a year ago.

For the United States, milk cows on farms produced a total of 9,278 million pounds of milk during December -- 1 percent above December 1955 and 15 percent above the 1945-54 December average. Production increased 6 percent from November, about the same gain for the period as last year but larger than the usual increase of 4 percent. During December, milk output was at a daily rate of 1.77 pounds per capita, equal to the rate a year earlier but higher than the 10-year December average of 1.72 pounds.

EGGS: Production will probably remain above the record levels of a year earlier, because of increased rates of lay per hen.

WHEAT: Exports are likely to top the 1955-56 total of 344 million bushels by at least 20 percent. Last winter's bad weather in Europe is an important factor.

NORTH CAROLINA WEATHER, DECEMBER 1956

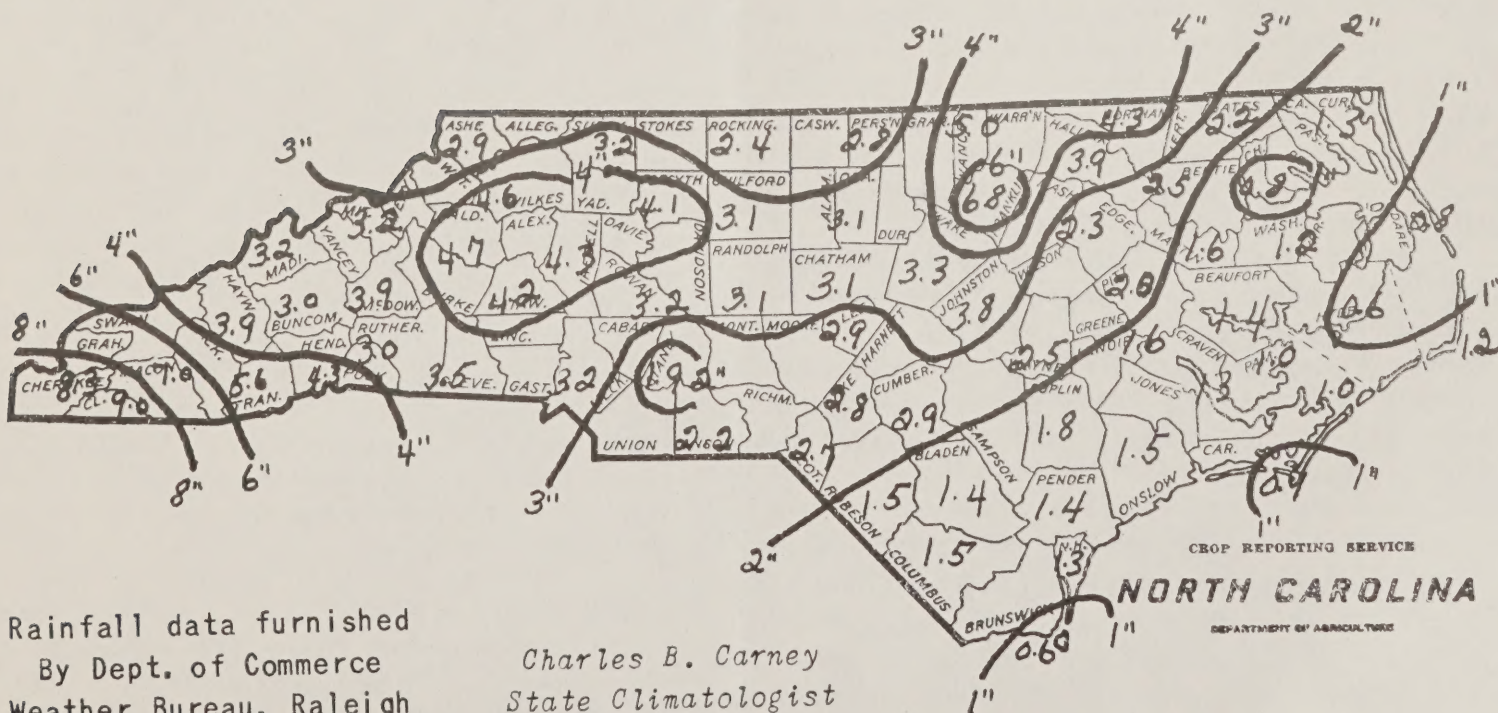
Weather was essentially fair during the first and last weeks of December, but the middle of the month was marked by heavy cloudiness, especially in the western and central parts of North Carolina. Widespread heavy fog occurred on several days of the second and third weeks, and there were a number of days in which thunderstorms were numerous. No violent storms were reported, however, and the principal effect of the thunderstorm weather was an uneven distribution of rainfall. The extreme eastern part of the State had less of the mid-month cloudiness; sunshine was recorded an average of sixty to seventy-five percent of daylight hours along the coast, as compared with fifty to sixty percent inland.

TEMPERATURES. This was the warmest December in twenty-five years, with above normal temperatures prevailing during all except the first two days and the final week. Daily maximum temperatures from seventy to eighty degrees were recorded at many stations on more than half the days of December, and some places broke long-term records for the highest December temperatures. On the other hand, some of

the coldest weather of the year occurred around Christmas, with minimum temperatures below freezing all the way to the south-east coast at Wilmington. Average temperatures for the month were from seven to ten degrees above normal at most stations, making many parts of the State warmer in December than in November.

PRECIPITATION. Fair, sunny weather prevailed over all of North Carolina during the first ten or twelve days of December, with practically no rainfall in the State. Thereafter, heavy cloudiness set in, and rain was almost a daily occurrence for the next two weeks. Amounts were not generally heavy, however, and December rainfall was less than normal over most of the State. Thundershower conditions around mid-month caused considerable variability from place to place, and the distribution of rainfall for a few days was almost as irregular as in summer. Amounts were very light all month along the coast, with many places totaling less than an inch. Elsewhere, totals were mostly one to four inches except in the southern mountains, where some stations totaled nine inches.

INCHES OF RAINFALL, DECEMBER, 1956



FARM REPORT

Compiled by authority of
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service
Agricultural Estimates Division
S. R. Newell, Director

Published by
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Division of Statistics
L. Y. Ballentine, Commissioner of Agriculture

Released semi-monthly through the
Crop Reporting Service at Raleigh
Henry L. Rasor, Statistician in Charge

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RYE ACREAGE UNCHANGED

Rye acreage seeded in the Fall of 1956 for the 1957 crop is estimated at 152,000 acres and is unchange from last years acreage. The current estimate is 13 percent above the 1945-54 average. Condition of the crop on December 1, 1956 was reported at 86 percent compared with 90 percent, the highest of record, a year earlier. The December 1 average equals the 10-year average.

The United States rye acreage down for all purposes in the fall of 1956 is 4.4 million acres, 3 percent less than the acreage sown in the fall of 1955, 14 percent less than the large acreage sown in the fall of 1954 but one-fifth above the 10-year average.

HIGHLIGHTS: Some increase in net income is likely for farmers in 1957 even assuming increases in marketing costs and in the prices of things farmers buy. Reduced hog marketings increased exports and decreased production, due to the Soil Bank, are keys to the situation.

EXPORTS: Total value of agricultural exports in 1956-57 may be up 15 percent to 20 percent from 1955-56. If shipping is available, the 1956-57 value is likely to top the 1951-52 record of \$4.1 billion. Lower prices may increase volume.

Prospects are brightest in wheat, cotton and rice. Fats and oils may remain at last year's record level. Feed grains and tobacco may decline.

COTTON: Exports may reach 6.5 million bales, nearly three times last year's total, with the reduced prices and low stocks abroad. Total disappearance this marketing year is likely to reach 15.5 million bales. This would exceed the 1956 crop by 2.2 million bales and reduce carry-over by a similar amount.

TOBACCO: Prices on burley auctions were averaging 8 percent above the same period last season through mid-December, 1956. Supplies are down a little from last year but are large considering prospective use.